

THE STAGES OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT BEFORE BIRTH—An Introduction to Human Embryology—E. Blechschmidt, M.D., Professor of Anatomy, Director of the Institute of Anatomy, University of Göttingen. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1961. 684 pages, \$23.00.

It would be helpful if it had been made clear in the title that this book is an atlas and not a textbook. It is not until one reads the preface that he learns that the book is an atlas. The use of the term "stages" in the title is also open to some criticism. The author has illustrated a selected series of embryos and fetuses, but these are not stages in the sense that this term is used for the developing chick, or as it has been used in connection with Streeter's development horizons.

The 579 illustrations include photographs, photomicrographs, drawings of entire specimens, drawings of dissections, and drawings of reconstructions. They are located on the right hand page facing the viewer and are labelled by numbers. The left hand page has two columns. The left column contains a brief discussion of the illustration in German, and the right column an English translation of this discussion. The structures indicated by the numbers on the illustration are listed toward the bottom of the left hand page.

Most of the illustrations are excellent and they are adequately labelled. They are reproduced upon paper that is not glossy, and yet they are clear and sharp.

The contents are divided into three main parts: The period of the ovum, the period of the embryo (including fetus), and the regions of the body including the organs in these regions. Some of the illustrations have been borrowed, but appropriate credit is given to their source.

Although the author states that the Paris nomenclature has been used, the labels and descriptions include such older terms as *vas deferens*, *Wolffian duct*, *adrenal gland*, and *lumbodorsal fascia*. Some readers, who appreciate the great variation in crown-rump length of embryos of the same age, may wonder why the lengths of some embryos were given with such exactness as ca. 3.4 mm., 4.2 mm., 6.3 mm., and 6.64 mm.

Not all embryologists will agree with the author's interpretation of various developmental processes. However, both students and teachers of embryology will profit by having available the large number of well selected illustrations found in this atlas.

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DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF THE GLAUCOMAS—Bernard Becker, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.; and Robert N. Shaffer, M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, Calif. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Missouri, 1961. 360 pages, \$18.00.

During the last 15 years the entire concept of the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma has changed a great deal. It is therefore timely that a book appear that is based on this new concept. Among those who have had an active part in bringing about these changes in the field of glaucoma are Becker and Shaffer, so that they, therefore, are well qualified as authors of this book.

The book is divided into eight sections including the subjects of classification, gonioscopy, tonometry and tonography, ophthalmoscopy and perimetry, surgical techniques together with an appendix which includes tables for tonography and tonometry and some excellent examples of tonograms accompanied by the case history. At the end of each section is a bibliography. Also helpful is the section heading in the upper lefthand corner of each page with the

right-hand page corner containing the chapter heading. This is very helpful for rapid reference work.

Two relatively new developments in the field of glaucoma are gonioscopy and tonography.

The section on gonioscopy describes the method of gonioscopy which is illustrated by excellent photographs. After describing the gonioscopic and microscopic anatomy of the anterior chamber angle, the clinical interpretation of the findings is discussed.

In the section on tonometry and tonography, the intraocular pressure and outflow facilities are well covered, and the clinical application of this new work is described.

The section on surgery in glaucoma is well described with good illustrations and a text that can be easily followed. This section also covers the pre- and postoperative care, including the directions to be given to the patient. The chapter on reoperation presents some practical advice in those cases where the original surgery fails.

While the book, as stated by the authors, is based on the work of many scientists and clinicians, it is a concise treatise on the present-day knowledge of glaucoma presented in a practical way that is easily understood by the practicing clinician. It is an excellent office reference.

The illustrations, both line drawings and photographs are outstanding and are beautifully reproduced. The five excellent color plates add greatly to the book. The general format is excellent; the quality of the paper and the type are outstanding and the index is unusually good.

The book is recommended as a must for every practicing ophthalmologist as a handy office reference.

FREDERICK C. CORDES, M.D.

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PATHOLOGIC PHYSIOLOGY—Mechanisms of Disease—Third Edition—Edited by William A. Sodeman, M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.P., Dean and Professor of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1961. 1182 pages, \$15.00.

This book gathers together a tremendous amount of normal and pathologic physiology. In explaining the clinical aspects of the physiology concerned it also includes a fair amount of symptomatology and some therapy, based on physiological principles.

Pathologic physiologic disturbances in the body represent the mechanisms whereby etiologic agents effect their damage, i.e., the reaction pattern between causative factors and the body itself. The unraveling of the pathologic physiology and the understanding of the process can direct the approach to control and treatment. And only through an understanding of the impact of the etiological factors of disease on the host can the mechanisms of disease be understood.

The third edition of this text has improved considerably on its earlier efforts. It now comprises 1182 pages with 31 chapters. The contents begin with a general description of pathologic physiology. The arrangement then proceeds through a series of chapters on Genetics and Disease, Metabolism and the Endocrine Glands, Infections and Allergy, and Physical, Toxic and Chemical Agents, before going on to chapters concerned with the usual system structure.

Reading this book makes understandable and correlates the mechanisms of individual diseases and syndromes, as well as the physiology of the body as a whole. This reviewer found the chapters on the Endocrine Glands, Digestive System and Respiratory System of particular interest. It is recommended to academically and scientifically minded physicians in practice as well as to those in training.

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